Stardust & Soliloquies

STORY AND ART - TRI VUONG
COLOURS - JOHN C. NEWTON

ACT 2
CHAPTER 2

THE HYDRONAUTS.

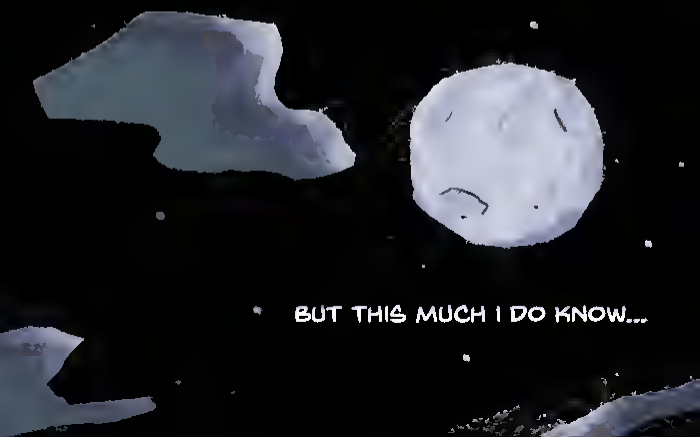
THAT'S NOT THEIR REAL NAME OF COURSE,

IT'S JUST WHAT I CALL THEM.

CURIOUSLY, THEY'VE NEVER CORRECTED ME NOR INSISTED ON ANOTHER NOMENCLATURE. PERHAPS THEY FIND MY MONIKER FOR THEM AMUSING.

BUT WHEN YOUR ENTIRE EXISTENCE IS AN ETERNITY OF COLLECTING THE OCEAN'S REFUSE, PERHAPS A NAME IS JUST ANOTHER TRINKET TO BE COLLECTED AND ADMIRED.

EVEN AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, I UNDERSTAND SO LITTLE ABOUT THEM.



BUT THIS MUCH I DO KNOW...

...THERE MUST ALWAYS BE THREE...
... NO MORE...

... NO LESS...

ANY SIGNS OF THE LIGHTHOUSE YET MISTER THEODORE?
NO CAPTAIN. BUT IT'S HARD TO GET A VISUAL. THERE'S A LOT OF STARLIGHT BOUNCING OFF THESE ICEBERGS.
VERY WELL. KEEP SOUNDING THE HORN, MISTER PERCIVAL, AND LET'S HOPE LADY GREY CATCHES IT.

AND LET'S HOPE WE CATCH HER IN A GOOD MOOD.
HOLD ON HERE..

THERE IT IS!

SHE'S LIT THE SIGNAL!

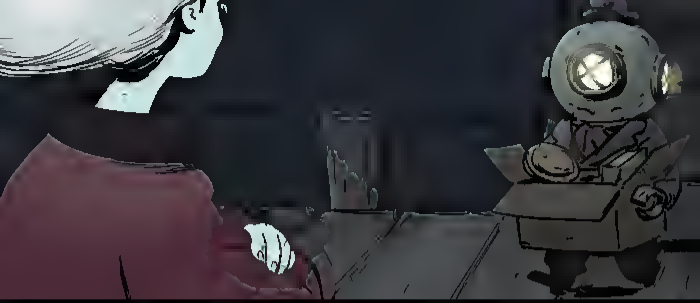
CAPTAIN...
WHAT DO WE TELL HER ABOUT OSCAR?

...
THE TRUTH, MISTER THEODORE...

... AND LET'S HOPE SHE DOESN'T KILL US ALL...

GENTLEMEN! WELCOME TO MY ISLAND!
COME! REST YOUR WEARY PINCERS. YOU HAVE OUR FULL HOSPITALITY! MY SERVANT WILL TEND TO YOUR EVERY NEED.

SHUT IT, REYNARD.
WHY ARE YOU HERE ABE?



PLEASE FORGIVE OUR INTRUSION LADY GREY, BUT CALAMITY STRUCK US IN THE SEA BELOW.
ONE OF OUR PASSENGERS WAS INJURED AND WE NEED SAFE HARBOR TO REFUEL CASSIOPEIA.
WE BRING GIFTS OF COURSE.

WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO?
... WHAT'S THIS?... LAPD OFFICER MUST DEFUSE A BOMB ON A BUS... IF THE BUS'S SPEED EXCEEDS 50 MPH IT WILL EXPLODE!...
WOW! THAT SOUNDS PRETTY EXCITING!
THERE'S MUCH MORE BOOKS. CHOCOLATE BARS. FROZEN DINNERS. MISTER PERCIVAL WILL UNLOAD THE

REST... ASSUMING WE HAVE YOUR PERMISSION OF COURSE...
HEY, WHO'S THE OLD GUY? WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?

HE DEAD?
OH.. UH..
THIS IS EDMUND.
LADY GREY. HE'S NOT
DEAD BUT HE BONKED
HIS HEAD PRETTY
BAD..

HE'S A FRIEND
OF OSCAR-

OSCAR?!!!

FORGET IT!
NO WAY AM I HELPING OUT A FRIEND OF THAT &%$%

JUST THROW HIM OVERBOARD.

NO! NOT AGAIN...
UHUHUHUHUH...

AH. LADY GREY. ABOUT OSCAR...
WELL...

HE LOST CONTROL OF THE ECTOPUS WHILE WE WERE AT SEA.
FOR THE SAFETY OF THE CREW, I HAD TO CAST HIM OVERBOARD.
I'M AFRAID

HE'S LOST TO THE SEA BELOW.

AHAHAHA! WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO?

COME, COME!
MAKE YOURSELF
AT HOME!

...

FOX. TAKE THEM TO THE INN AND GET THEM SET UP.
WE WEREN'T EXPECTING GUESTS

RIGHT NOW SO EVERYTHING IS PRETTY DUSTY BUT YOU CAN FIND A BED FOR THE OLD GUY TO REST IN.
THANK YOU LADY GREY. ONCE AGAIN WE ARE IN YOUR DEBT.

SEE PERCY? THAT WASN'T SO BAD.
UHUHUHUH...
I WAS SO SCARED! I THOUGHT SHE WAS GOING TO MAKE US KILL EDMUND.

NORA...
ARE YOU COMING?

YES.

I JUST NEED A MINUTE.

TO BE CONTINUED...

AUTHOR'S NOTE

12 ARTISTS.

1 COTTAGE.

WHAT COULD GO WRONG?

TURNS OUT NOTHING! THIS PAST WEEKEND, WE HAD THE FIRST ANNUAL RAID RETREAT UP IN MUSKOKA, ONTARIO. AFTER A LONG WINTER OF GRINDING DEADLINES, THE PLAN WAS TO GET AWAY FROM IT ALL AND RECHARGE OUR CREATIVE BATTERIES BY HANGING AROUND THE CAMP

FIRE, GRILLING SOME BURGERS AND JUST GENERALLY TAKING IT EASY.

I CAME BACK SUPER INSPIRED WITH LOTS OF IDEAS OSCAR ZAHN... AND ALSO SOME OTHER COMICS! HERE'S A LITTLE SNEAK PREVIEW:

ALSO, BIG THANKS FOR THIS WEEK TO NIGEL. R FOR PLEDGING ON PATREON!

THAT'S ALL FOR NOW, SEE YA NEXT WEEK!

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